MA Sample Timeline

First Year

Fall
- Read degree requirements (general and program-specific) on English Web site and Graduate School Web site
- Read the Graduate Student Survival Handbook on the Graduate School Web site
- Meet with Director of Graduate Studies in English in the early weeks of the semester
- Meet twice with appointed faculty mentor
- Plan approach to fulfill the requirements for your degree (including language requirements)
- Submit Transfer Credit Evaluation form (if applicable) to Director of Graduate Studies
- Meet and talk with faculty members who share your interests

Spring
- If you do not have a TA but wish to, apply (or reapply) for the TA by the deadline
- Choose a committee chair, and in consultation with chair form rest of your committee
- Check progress toward degree requirements, including foreign language requirement
- In consultation with committee chair, consider the thesis vs. non-thesis option (if you choose thesis, begin to consider topics)
- Complete Program of Study and submit it to Director of Graduate Studies
- Begin focusing plans for the MA comprehensive exam/final project(s)/thesis

Summer
- Continue preparation for exam/final project(s)/thesis
- Consider doing a summer internship, field institute, or volunteer work
- Consider and begin to research longer-term goals (more graduate school vs. careers, etc.)
- Continue taking language classes if requirement not yet met

Second Year

Fall
- Meet with chair early to discuss progress through degree
- Prepare for the MA comprehensive exam and/or work on final project(s)/thesis
- Apply to graduate schools with early deadlines (if applicable)

Spring
- Finish course work
- Apply to graduate schools and/or jobs
- Complete comprehensive exam/final project(s)/thesis
- Submit application for graduation early
- File notice of completion (and thesis) by Graduate School deadline

Note: A TAship in the MA program may be held for a maximum of two years. The MA degree must be completed within six years from the time you first earn graduate credits that you apply toward the degree. This timeline represents a very general model for your progress toward the
degree. The key is to be aware of what you’re doing, keep medium- and long-range goals in mind, and consult frequently with your mentor/chair.